

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a storage unit configured to store a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier there is also stored a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium; and

a processor configured to determine a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction and to execute the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage unit to determine, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available; and

an image forming part configured to carry out an image formation by recording image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storage unit is configured to store, in correspondence with at least one of the user identifiers, information specifying whether or not a zoom is required when printing information, and/or information specifying a printing position on the recording medium.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the storage unit is configured to store the size of the substitute recording medium in response to an external setting instruction from outside.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

a notifying device configured to notify to the outside when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available or when the size of the substitute recording medium is not stored in the storage unit, together with information indicating an available size of the recording medium, so as to request a selection of a recording medium size to use to execute the print instruction.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a setting device configured to set and store the size of the substitute recording medium in the storage unit.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storage device stores the plurality of user identifiers, the corresponding recording medium size, and the corresponding size of the substitute recording medium in a table.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:

storing, in a storage unit, a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier, storing a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium; determining a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction; executing the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage unit and determining, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available,

wherein the executing includes carrying out an image formation with an image forming apparatus that records image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image forming method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said storing includes storing, in correspondence with at least one of the user identifiers, information specifying whether or not a zoom is required when printing information, and/or information specifying a printing position on the recording medium.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image forming method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

storing the size of the substitute recording medium in the storage unit in response to an external setting instruction from outside.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image forming method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

notifying to the outside when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available or when the size of the substitute recording medium is not stored in said storage unit, together with information indicating an available size of the recording medium, so as to request a selection of a recording medium size to use to execute the print instruction.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The image forming method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said storing includes storing the plurality of user identifiers, the corresponding recording medium size, and the corresponding size of the substitute recording medium in a table.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to implement an image forming method comprising:

storing, in a storage unit, a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier, storing a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium;

determining a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction;

executing the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording

medium by accessing the storage unit and determining, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available,

wherein the executing includes carrying out an image formation with an image forming apparatus that records image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with ~~instruction~~ instructions, which when executed a computer, causes the computer to implement a method comprising:

registering a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier, registering a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium; ~~and~~

designating, for each of the plurality of user identifiers, that the corresponding size of the substitute recording medium is to be used when the recording medium size is not available; and

carrying out an image formation with an image forming apparatus that records image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 20, wherein the computer is one of a computer within a host unit which outputs the

print instruction with respect to an image forming apparatus and a computer within the image forming apparatus which prints information on the recording medium.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier there is also stored a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium; ~~and~~

processing means for determining a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction and for executing the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage means to determine, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available; and

image forming means for carrying out an image formation, the image forming means recording image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:

a step for storing, in a storage unit, a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier, storing a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium;

a step for determining a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction; and

a step for executing the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage unit to determine, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available,

wherein the step for executing includes carrying out an image formation with an image forming apparatus that records image data amounting to one page on a plurality of the substitute recording media such that each of the plurality of the substitute recording media has one of a plurality of parts forming the image data amounting to one page.